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Albert Wickham, 76, founded Wickham Books ✓

A memorial service for Albert Prentiss Wickham of Marshfield will be held Saturday, March 10 at 2 p.m. at the First Parish Church.

Mr. Wickham, a former marine architect and proprietor of Wickham Books in Millbrook, died Feb. 18 at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston after a short illness. He was 76.

Born in Norwalk, Ohio, he was the only child of William and Corrine Wickham but was part of a tight-knit group of cousins who enjoyed summers on Lake Erie where he developed his fascination for boats and a love of hunting and fishing. He received his undergraduate degree from Kenyon College in Ohio where as a freshman he met his future wife, Miriam Titus. They were married in 1952.

Mr. Wickham served in the U.S. Navy as a lieutenant commander and earned a degree in naval architecture and marine engineering from the University of Michigan.

He received a master's degree in engineering management from Northeastern University's School of Engineering and later moved to Marshfield after accepting a position as a naval architect at Bethlehem Steel in Quincy, which later became the ship-building division of General Dynamics. He was chief of project engineering at General Dynamics and later worked as a consultant for M. Rosenblatt and Son.

In the 1980s, he and Miriam founded Wickham Books, which they operated for 15 years as an out-of-print bookstore at a small shop in Millbrook. They traveled the book-fair circuit helping customers find long-lost books.

Mr. Wickham was a member of the Duxbury Senior Men's Club, a former member of the Marshfield Conservation Commission and a volunteer at the Cedar Hill Conference Center in Duxbury. He also contributed many volunteer hours to the

First Parish Church where he was a member for 35 years. He and his family traveled extensively throughout this country and to Japan, Spain, Jamaica and Belize.

In addition to his wife, he leaves two sons: William P. Wickham and his wife, Mary Shaughnessy, of Naples, Fla., and Jeffrey C. Wickham and his wife, Carrie Kuempel, of Wellesley; and two daughters, Ann P. Wickham and her husband, Justin Marble, of Acton, and Jennifer M. Wickham and her husband, Philip Decter, of Jamaica Plain. He also leaves nine grandchildren: Mary Catherine, Sarah and Flannery Wickham of Naples, Fla.; Nathan, Corrine and Olivia Marble of Acton; Sam and Lee Wickham of Wellesley; and Emmett Wickham-Decter of Jamaica Plain.

Donations in Mr. Wickham's memory may be made to First Parish Church, 842 Tremont St., Duxbury, MA 02332.